

CLAIMS

[30990128]

1. A method of permitting secure access between a service external to a network firewall and a client internal to the firewall, comprising the steps of:

- 5 - (a) effecting an HTTP GET operation or equivalent thereof from the client to establish a communications socket for communicating data from the service to the client;
- (b) after a predetermined interval effecting another GET operation or equivalent thereof to close the communications socket, irrespective of whether access between
- 10 the service and the client is required to continue; and
- repeating steps (a) and (b) while access between the service and the client is required to continue.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined interval is less than another

15 interval after which client software enforces termination of a communications socket established by a GET operation or equivalent thereof.

3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein information is transferred from the client to the service by an HTTP POST operation or equivalent thereof.

20 4. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein successive messages transferred between the client and the service are identified by a globally-unique identification created by the client and communicated to the service.

25 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the globally-unique identification is communicated via an HTTP GET or POST operation or equivalent thereof.

30 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the globally-unique identification is communicated in a URI relative path component.

 7. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein communications with the client traverse a proxy service located on the client side of the firewall.

35

005050" 2955960